

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
9:00 a.m., November 5, 2003
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Hearing Room
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: Renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2003-0059, NPDES Permit No. CA0023655, for the Sonoma West Holdings, Inc., Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility, Sonoma County. WDID No. 1B812020SON.

DISCUSSION

The Permit for the Sonoma West Holdings, Inc., facility (Facility) in Sebastopol, California, includes Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the treatment and disposal of industrial and domestic waste to land. The Permit also serves as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit that regulates the treatment and discharge of process wastewater and cold storage defrost water to Barlow Creek, tributary to Atascadero Creek, tributary to Green Valley Creek, and thence to the Russian River, all waters of the United States.

In 1994, the Regional Water Board adopted WDRs, Order No. 94-7, for the Vacu-Dry Company, the former business name of Sonoma West Holdings, Inc., (Permittee). The Facility is currently operated by the Permittee as a multi-tenant food and beverage processing facility. As of January 2003, the Facility had eight tenants: six wineries, one beverage producer and one specialty pea and rice dehydrated chip processor. The Permittee has performed a water balance analysis and estimated the capacity of the Facility as a peak daily flow of 368,000 gpd and an average daily flow during the peak harvest month of 173,000 gpd.

The design and operation of the process wastewater treatment system is specifically suited to treat organic wastes from beverage and food operations. The system is not designed to treat process wastes from other types of industrial activity. Therefore, the Permit contains provisions restricting the types of allowable tenants and the types of waste that may be discharged into the treatment system. The findings of the Permit describe the treatment system and Facility history in greater detail.

Important points of the Permit:

- Unlike the previous permit, no discharge of domestic wastewater to surface waters is permitted under this Permit.
- To comply with the California Toxics Rule and State Implementation Policy, the Permit includes effluent limitations for cadmium, copper, cyanide, nickel, selenium and zinc for the Facility's discharge to Barlow Creek.

PRELIMINARY STAFF

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Permit as proposed.

(sonomawesteosrrevised)